

Your details

Title

Mr

First name

Barry

Last name

Gill

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

I was personally impacted by bushfires that commenced from October 2019 to January 2020. The fire in question was the Gospers Mountain fire which raged in the Colo area of NSW. The fire stopped one ridge away (750 metres) from the house. This fire continued for months and impacted several ways on my ten year old daughter and myself.

We were both affected mentally and physically. She has now become fearful and unable to sleep normally while on our property. I did not allow her to be on site for her safety during this time and we spent a long period apart.

I was exhausted from remaining awake constantly awaiting possible ember and direct fire front attack. Because of the scale of the fire I was unsure whether I would receive help in time in case of attack and indeed comments made

by the previous Hawkesbury fire control officer who indicated he would not send personal and appliances for support in these instances and commented if my house burnt down I would not be able to rebuild. These issues have impacted on my mental wellbeing.

Finally, I have had to take significant time from work during the bushfire period. This however, has not impacted on me financially, as it has on others in my community.

Ultimately, I believe the cause of these fires, to large extent, has been poor fire mitigation / hazard reduction. I will address this in point 1.2, Terms of Reference.

I am providing supportive evidence

Ultimately, I believe the cause of these fires, to large extent, has been poor fire mitigation / hazard reduction. I have had personal dealings with the Hawkesbury Fire Control Are Command and have found them obstructive both at the fire mitigation and operations level. I have tried to work with the Hawkesbury Fire Control to reduce the fuel level hazard on my property but to no avail. I am providing supportive evidence to show this is the case and provide context of the issues surrounding hazard reduction in my area.

Frankly, I am tired of living in fear of these bush fires each summer which are not being controlled prior to the seasons beginning. Whilst there can be no guarantees a fire will not occur, I believe the long term measures of hazard mitigation have not been implemented to their best advantage

Please note in correspondence, a broad scale burn of my area was to be organised for 2012 and to date this has never occurred. It has continuously been postponed. The reasons for postponement were vague and not transparent. The result of this inaction may have contributed to the devastation of my community.

I have had no satisfaction with the local authorities and I look forward to this issue being resolved positively by this commission.

Regards

Barry Gill

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- Email to NSW MP Ray Williams.pdf
- Prescribed burn 21-12-12.pdf
- Various correspondence with fire mitigation officer.pdf



Re: Fwd: Website Enquiry

Barry G [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thu, Nov 15, 2012 at 1:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Sep 5, 2012 at 1:53 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Website Enquiry
[REDACTED]

>>> Ray Williams 5/09/2012 1:19 pm >>>

Dear Mr Gill,

I have forwarded this to the Local Hawkesbury Fire Control Officer with a request for further advice.

I will provide you with an update once it is received

Regards Ray Williams MP
Member for Hawkesbury

>>> ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury 9/4/2012 12:19 pm >>>

>>> [REDACTED] 4/09/2012 11:59:14 am >>>

Name: Barry Gill**Email:** [REDACTED]**Message:**

Tuesday, 4th September 2012

Dear Mr Williams,

I am writing to you regarding my dissatisfaction with the fire hazard reduction process administered by the fire mitigation officer Steven Ellem, stationed at Hawkesbury fire control, Wilberforce. I contacted him approx 12 pm, Thursday the 30th of August to advise I wished to initiate an agricultural burn on my property at [REDACTED] to protect my four head of cattle. I was told this would not be possible since I was not a primary producer. I then asked about initiating a standard hazard reduction burn on the NW direction of my property. At this point he said he would refer to his mapping and ring back. This area I wish to reduce with a low intensity burn is approximately eighty metres by 50 metres and on an incline of approximately twenty degrees on a southern aspect. This area is a buffer between my neighbours'™ property to the west and my house. This aspect is prone to a direct attack from wild fire during the summer months and poses a serious threat to my house and family. At approximately 12.20 pm he rang back. The response I received was:

1. I had left it too late to apply.
2. I would require two to three fire trucks to be on site during the burn.
3. That the neighbour above me situated on the ridge, would be under serious threat.
4. There is little point as I am surrounded by other neighbours with high fuel loads on my boundary.

When I questioned point one, with the inability to light a fire on a southern aspect because of cold and dampness prior to this part of the year, he agreed. He said words to the effect "œ you'™re not telling me anything new, we have been unable to burn in that area ourselves" .

On point two, it is extremely difficult to get these resources in place for a burn that would take approximately two and a half hours. I could also divide the area into smaller burns. Secondly you are aware of how stretched our volunteer services are. This southerly aspect extending into neighbour properties on either side of me has not had any intervention in ten years from the RFS. What do think these fuel levels are like? I am sure you are aware.

Further on point two, in the past when I have asked for a hazard reduction certificate, I have had placed on me other onerous resource requirements some of it being cost, making it next to impossible to legally burn. In any case, this fire mitigation officer has not allowed a low intensity burn with a greater distance than twenty metres from the outside dimensions of my dwelling!

On Point three, if it is of serious concern to this fire mitigation officer that the northerly neighbour on the ridge above me is under serious threat from my application, then how much danger will this neighbour be in during the bush fire period without the fuel load being reduced below him?

There seems to be some hypocrisy here.

Point four. I can only take responsibility for my property. As a member of the community I should take reasonable steps to ensure the fuel load on my property is low and thus has minimal impact on my neighbours. However, currently this is made very difficult by the government agencies and their employees.

To add to my distress, this fire mitigation officer has made this issue personal. During our telephone conversation he indicated that my house and that of my neighbours should not be there. In the past he has said that should my house burn down, then I would not be allowed to build on my property again! We have had our buildings approved by council! Some of my neighbours' houses have been sitting there for fifty years, another to the east, for nearly one hundred.

His job is to assist in protecting assets and lives at risk. Rather there seems to be a mindset of making applications difficult to carry out in practice and thus ensuring these lives and private assets are lost. I am in disbelief, that this individual and his organisation, has the power of life and death.

I have formally applied for a hazard reduction certificate on Thursday the 30th of August. On the application I have circled the seven day turn around period for a resolution. I fear however I will not hear back in this time frame.

I am respectfully requesting you intervene in this issue, for the wider community in general.

It is common knowledge and widely accepted that this fire season will be horrific. I am appalled there is such little support from the services payed by the tax payer to assist.

Yours in good faith,

Barry Gill



NSW Interagency Level 1 Prescribed Burn Plan

Burn Name:	Gill Hr	BRIMS No.: HR12091460837 -2	
Location:	[REDACTED]		
Bush Fire Mgt Zone:	Land Management Zone	Proposed Date:	TBA
Land Tenure:	Private	Actual Date:	
Plan Prepared By:	Steven Ellem FMO	[Signature] 21/12/12	
	Name & position	Signature & date	
Plan Approved By: (approved no more than 12 months prior to burn)	Steven Ellem	[Signature] 21/12/12	
	Name & position	Signature & date	
Incident Controller: (to sign on day of burn)	Barry Gill		
	Name & position	Signature & date	
SITUATION (SMEACS)			
SITE CHARACTERISTICS			
Area:	0.2 ha	Time Since Last Fire:	>10 years
Description of Site:	<p>Small narrow parcel of land with a rocky southern aspect above dwelling. With neighbouring dwelling directly upslope of proposed hazard reduction burn.</p> <p>This burn plan is for up to 19 small mosaic parcels as identified on the attached map as G1 – G9 then 11 – 19. (position not exact but to give a rough idea of location and size for parcel being burnt)</p> <p>Proposal will allow the landowner to identify to fire control which parcel he will attempt to carry out. Fire control will also need to have the outcome post burn for each parcel attempted.</p> <p>Landowner too seek, request permission from fire control duty officer, 2 business days leading up to proposed hazard reduction burn.</p> <p>(Fire Safety Permit required during the fire danger period)</p>		

FUEL CHARACTERISTICS			
Vegetation Type & Distribution:	Dry sclerophyll forest on steep rocky terrain <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel assessment form attached		
Overall Fuel Hazard:	t/ha	Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Mod <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> V. High <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme
ENVIRONMENTAL PRESCRIPTIONS			
Approval type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HRC <input type="checkbox"/> REF/EIS <input type="checkbox"/> IFOA	Required Protective Measures: Hazard reduction burn must only be lit from upslope and allowed to burn down slope. (no upslope burning to be attempted) do not light within 5 meters of any water course. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental approval attached.		
CONTROL LINES			
Control lines in place:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No. Description: Control line will need to be in place around each mosaic parcel as well as an additional fallback control line or mosaic parcel above the parcel being hazard reduced.		
Contingency Control lines: (List fallback lines in the event of a breakout)	Control lines in place for next planned mosaic parcel up slope from the parcel being attempted, hose line able to reach past no secondary mosaic parcel		
Vehicle access:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Light vehicle (striker only)		
MISSION (SMEACS)			
AIMS & OBJECTIVES			
Aims & Objectives:	Carry out small low intensity hazard reduction burn parcel in a mosaic pattern totally blacking out and patrol before undergoing next parcel.		
Expected Duration:	Multiple short periods approx 2 hr each + patrol		
EXECUTION (SMEACS)			
PREFERRED FIRE BEHAVIOUR & WEATHER			
Optimum Intensity:	Low intensity	Optimum FFDI:	8
Flame Height:	0.5 - 1 m (average)	Scorch Height:	3 m (average)
Other Prescriptions: (conditions which will prohibit or restrict burning)	Wind above 5 kph Forecast wind from the west. Fuel moisture content should not be below 12 % Fuel Moisture Content. Suggest carry out leaf ignition fuel moisture check test prior to carrying out HR. (reasoning fuel moisture below 12 % will make suppressing fire more difficult should fire breach control lines)		

RESOURCES	
Suggested Resources / Personnel Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat 1 x ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cat 2 x ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cat 7 x ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cat 9 x ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Carrier x ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Hose line and pump from river</u> Personnel: at least 2 capable adults
WATER	
Water Points:	Minimum 5 HP Pump at river with at least 20 mm hose lines able to extend at least 20 metres past the mosaic parcel being hazard reduced. Spare hose available should hose line burst or be rendered unserviceable. Secondary emergency water source available should primary system fail.
SMOKE MANAGEMENT	
Smoke Management Strategies:	If excessive smoke occurs black out fire
Traffic Management Strategies:	If excessive smoke occurs which displays any likely hood of smoke over rd, fire to be blacked out immediately
PRE BURN PREPARATION	
Works Required: Describe works required to be completed prior to burn e.g. control line construction	Control line established at least 1 metre wide around each mosaic parcel being hazard reduced Contingency control line above the parcel being attempted as shown on map and must be at least 1 metre mineral earth or rock shelf wide. (Fire Safety Permit required during the fire danger period)
ADMINISTRATION (SMEAGS)	
NOTIFICATION AND CONSENTS	
Land Owner Consents:	<input type="checkbox"/> All land owners give consent for works to be carried out on their land. <input type="checkbox"/> Consents attached
Notice to Neighbours:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24 hours notice given to adjoining land owners/occupiers. Comments: Barry gill to advise neighbours
Agencies to be Notified:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSWFB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NPWS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FNSW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RTA <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electricity Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Catchment Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
PATROL	
Patrol:	Agency responsible for monitor and patrol: Private (Barry Gill)

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner/ Occupier to monitor and patrol Contact name: Barry Gill Contact Phone No.: 45755139 Address: Gill Rd Colo Handover Time: Totally by owner Status of burn at time of handover: Totally by owner						
COMMAND & COMMUNICATIONS (SMEACS)							
Incident Controller:	Name: Barry Gill Call sign: Channel: Mobile Number (if required):						
SAFETY (SMEACS)							
Hazards: (list the site specific hazards that may affect firefighters & measures to deal with them)	Controls Slips and falls, managed by landowner having at least one other competent person while carrying out mosaic parcel. Hazard reduction burn escaping control line. Attempt to put out escaped fire by hose line or utilise secondary control line. Should spot fire occur 000 to be notified immediately, giving your address as well as property no of neighbouring landowner address above being 1921 Singleton (putty rd) Colo. List measures to deal with them						
Refuge Areas & Escape Routes:	Below house road and paddocks						
First Aid: (Safety Officer)	TBA						
INCIDENT CONTROLLER REQUIREMENTS							
ON THE DAY CHECKLIST							
On ground inspection of burn area completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Required resources available	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Control lines and fall back contingency prepared	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Escape routes and safety refuges have been checked	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Weather forecasts requested and received	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Time	T (°C)	RH (%)	Wind Dir.	Wind (km/h)	FDI	KBDI	Weather Source

Actual weather conditions recorded at burn site are suitable for burn objectives						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Time	T (°C)	RH (%)	Wind Dir.	Wind (km/h)	FDI	KBDI	Comments
Crew briefed (SMEACS)						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Firecom notified						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Patrol details confirmed						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
FDI EXCEEDED CHECKLIST:							
<i>Where the FDI measured on or forecast for the day a prescribed burn is to be undertaken exceeds the optimum FDI range specified in this plan the IC must undertake the following assessment before deciding whether to proceed with the proposed burn.</i>							
<p>The objectives identified in the plan can be achieved for the prescribed burn. All environmental and weather constraints, set in this burn plan (other than FDI) will be met. The long range weather conditions are forecast to remain appropriate for prescribed burning activities. The proposed lighting pattern is still adequate or has been updated here:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>The prescribed burn can still be conducted safely. The containment lines are adequate for the expected FDI. Contingency containment lines are identified in case the primary lines are breached. There is access for containment of spot fires. Nearby assets have been identified and resources arranged if required. There are adequate resources available to cover contingencies.</p>							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
..... Incident Controller. Signature and Date					If FDI Exceeded: <Agency Approver>. Signature and Date		
POST BURN ASSESSMENT							
Burn contained within planned boundaries			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, why?				
Objectives met			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, why?				
Injuries or near misses			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Comments:				

Remedial action required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Comments:
NOTES	



Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate Environmental Approval for Works

In accordance with section 100F of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*,
this certificate (certificate number HR12091460837-2)

Is issued to: Mr Barry Gill

of: [REDACTED]

For works to be carried out at: [REDACTED]

For the purpose of: Managing Asset Protection Zone to protect a residential building

using the following method of hazard reduction works:

- Burning - low intensity, of 0.56(ha)

in accordance with the attached map (if supplied).

This certificate shall be effective from 21 December 2012 and expires on 20 December 2013.

This certificate provides authority to carry out bush fire hazard reduction work on the land described above in accordance with

- the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan that applies to Hawkesbury City Council
- the *Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code February 2006*; and
- the conditions specified overleaf.

As the applicant I have read and agree with the conditions of this certificate (please sign below).
On completion of the works I will notify NSW Rural Fire Service using the return form attached.

Signed

Date: _____

Name

Authorisation by a person authorised under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* to grant this certificate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA', written over a horizontal line.

Signed

Date: 21/12/2012

Steven Ellem
District Technical Officer

This certificate is issued in accordance with the following conditions:

1. A copy of this Certificate must be carried by a person present on site at all times during which the above works are being carried out.
2. Direct lighting of vegetation is not permitted within 5 metres of the stream.
3. Control lines are to be constructed using mowing/brushcutting to a maximum width of 2 metres.
4. Construction of control lines must not involve the removal of any trees greater than 3 metres in height or greater than 300 mm in girth (as measured at 1.3 metres above ground level).
5. Control lines are to be constructed where vegetation has been previously disturbed.
6. Control lines must be allowed to revegetate after the hazard reduction burn has been conducted.
7. Control lines must not be constructed within 5 metres of any stream.
8. Drainage structures must be provided at 50 metre intervals along the control line in accordance with the RFS document Standards for Low Intensity Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Burning.
9. All burning is to be conducted in such a way as to minimise smoke emissions. Refer to the RFS document Standards for Low Intensity Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Burning.
10. The owner/occupier of all adjoining properties (including land separated by a road or waterway) shall be advised of any proposed burning a minimum of 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) before lighting the burn.
11. The owner/occupier of all residential premises within 200 metres shall be advised of any proposed burning a minimum of 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) before lighting the burn.
12. The RTA shall be advised a minimum of 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) before lighting the burn.
13. Hazard reduction burn to be carried out in small mosaic compartments, control lines must be in place and suitable charged hose lines in place, to prevent fire spreading outside particular compartment, selected for hazard reduction burning.
14. Hazard reduction burn must have suitably competent adults on site to carry out hazard reduction burn with safety, within compartment designated and with regard to attached RFS burn plan provided.
15. All burning permitted by this certificate shall be carried out within the areas identified on the attached map.
16. A burn plan shall be prepared and approved by the Rural Fire Service prior to the commencement of the hazard reduction burn. The burn plan shall include measures, where required, to prevent fire where the Soil Erosion Risk is greater than 150 t/ha/yr .
17. The hazard reduction burn must be contained within control lines.

For all works involving the use of fire, the certificate holder must also comply with the following conditions:

1. Notification must be given to neighbours and to Hawkesbury RFS Fire Control Centre on 4560 6400 a minimum of 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) prior to burning.
2. The certificate holder is required to comply with Total Fire Bans declared by the NSW Rural Fire Service.
3. The certificate holder is required to comply with No Burn Notices issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). For information related to No Burn Notices, contact the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Environment Line on 131 555.
4. If the activity is to be conducted within a Bush Fire Danger Period a bush fire permit must also be obtained by the certificate holder.

Disclaimer:

Failure to comply with these conditions may result in action being taken for breaches under relevant environmental legislation.

Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate Return Form

The following form must be completed and returned when the works specified on Page 1 of this Certificate have been completed.

Return to:

District Technical Officer
Hawkesbury FCC
Macquarie Road
Wilberforce 2756
or Fax: 4575 1475

I have completed the work approved by Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate HR12091460837-2 at

██

Works approved:	Area treated	Date completed	Percent successful
Burning - low intensity, of 0.56(ha) / /

..... / /
Signed	Date

.....
Name

Comments:
.....
.....

Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate HR12091460837-2
in accordance with section 100F of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*



	<p align="center">Legend</p>	<p align="center">Map Details</p> Projection: GDA94 Print Date/Time: 21/12/2012 Page Size: A4 The NSW Rural Fire Service makes every effort to ensure the quality of the information available on this map. Before relying on the information on this map, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes, and should obtain any appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances. The NSW Rural Fire Service can not guarantee and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy.	<p align="center">Overview Map</p>
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Proposer Name: Barry Gill

Certificate End Date: 20 December 2013

Location Description: [REDACTED]

Method	Dimensions
Burning 1 - Low Intensity	0.56ha



**HAWKESBURY
Gill Mosaic Blocks
Prescribed Burn Operations Map**
TBA and as separate low intensity parcels

Scale: 1 : 634

0 0.007 0.014



Km

LEGEND

- Aerial Ignition Planned
- HR Actual Point
- Burn in Progress Sign
- Control Line - Completed
- Smoke Hazard Sign
- Control Line - Proposed
- Divisional Boundary
- HR Actual Line
- HR Proposed Line
- Sector Boundary
- HR Ignition Direction
- Machine Cut Track
- Fire Direction
- Track
- HR Actual Area
- HR Proposed Area
- Asset - Hazmat
- Asset
- Endangered Fauna
- Endangered Flora
- Historic Site
- Indigenous Site
- Threatened Asset

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Plot Information:
Date: 12/21/2012
Time: 17:28:42

Fire Statistics:
Proposed Area: 0.14 Ha
Proposed Perimeter: 0.67 Km
Actual Area: 0 Ha
Actual Perimeter: 0 Km

Map Details:
Base Data: © LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OCH, Sensis, Katron
Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
Print Date / Time: 12/21/2012 7:17:13 PM
Produced by: Steven Eilom

WARNING INFORMATION

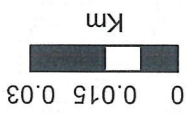
1. This map has been prepared by a NSW Government Agency ('the Agency') using data supplied to it by other agencies and entities.
2. The Agency has not verified or checked the data used to prepare this map. The map may contain errors and omissions.
3. The Agency has not made any attempt to ground truth the map. There will be a margin of error in relation to the location of features recorded on the map. The Agency is unable to specify the extent or magnitude of that margin of error.
4. Significant changes may have occurred:
1. in the time between which the data was originally collected and the map produced; and
2. since the map was produced.
5. Users must, wherever possible, ground truth the map before relying on it or the accuracy of the map or the information recorded on the map for any purpose.
6. The Agency accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information recorded on the map.

KEY MAP





**HAWKESBURY
Gill Mosaic Blocks
Prescribed Burn Operations Map
TBA and as separate low intensity parcels**



LEGEND

- Aerial Ignition Planned
- HR Proposal Point
- Burn In Progress Sign
- Smoke Hazard Sign - Completed
- Control Line - Proposed
- Divisional Boundary
- HR Actual Line
- HR Proposal Line
- Machine Cut Track
- Fire Direction
- Asset
- Asset - Hazard
- HR Proposal Area
- HR Actual Area
- Endangered Fauna
- Endangered Flora
- Historic Site
- Indigenous Site
- Threatened Asset

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Pilot Information:
Date: 12/21/2012
Time: 17:26:42

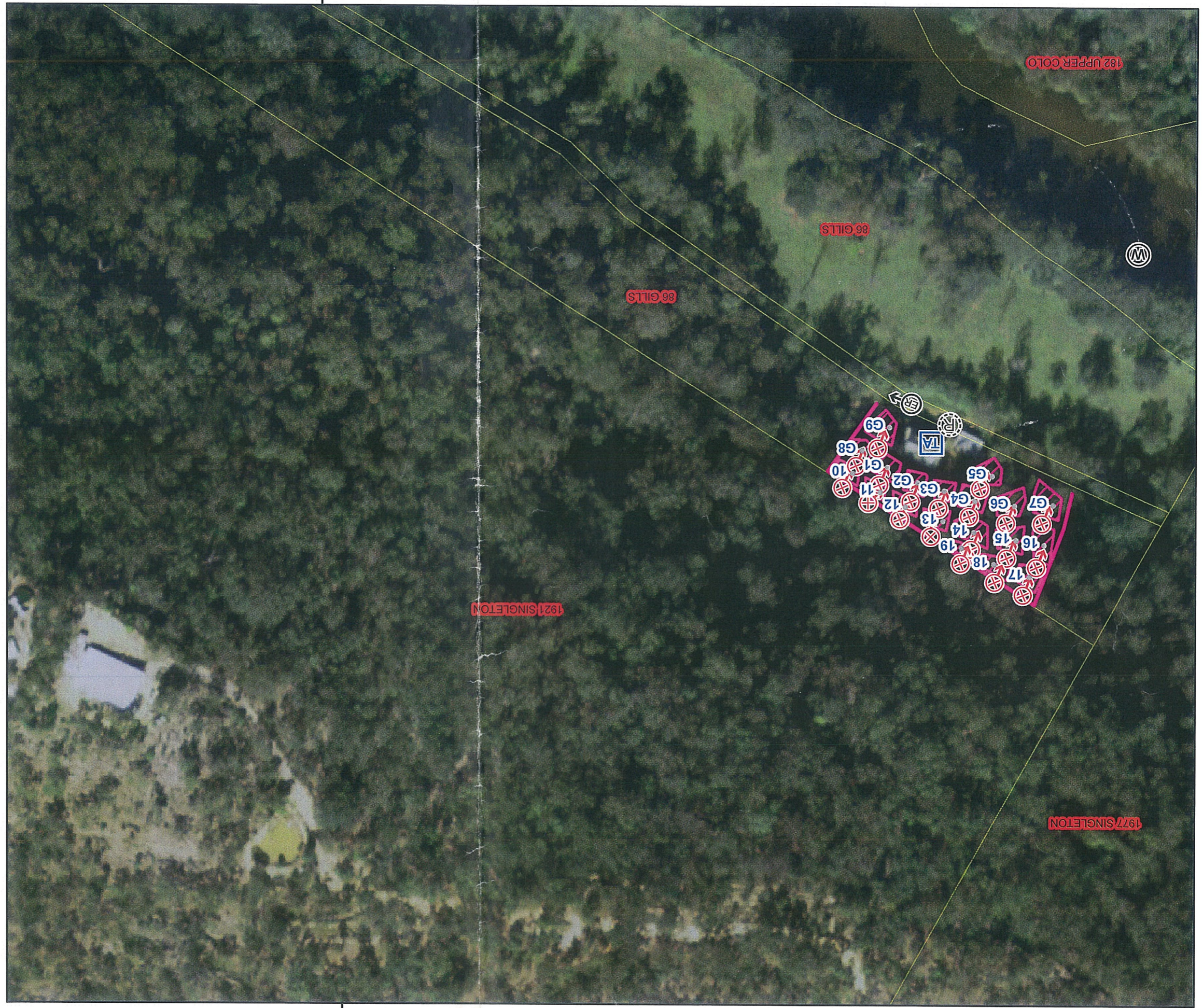
Fire Statistics:
Proposed Area: 0.14 Ha
Proposed Perimeter: 0.67 Km
Actual Area: 0 Ha
Actual Perimeter: 0 Km

Map Details:
Base Data: © LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OEH, Sensis, Katron
Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
Print Date / Time: 12/21/2012 7:18:46 PM
Produced by: Steven Eilem

WARNING INFORMATION

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1. In the time between which the data was originally collected and the map produced, and
2. Since the map was produced.
5. Users must, wherever possible, ground truth the map before relying on it for any purpose.
6. The Agency accepts no responsibility for any injury loss or damage arising from the use of this map or any errors or omissions in the information recorded on the map.

KEY MAP



SINCLAIR, FORD.
47214321



Barry G [redacted]

FW: Hazard reduction form

Barry G [redacted]

Fri, Sep 28, 2012 at 3:01 PM

To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

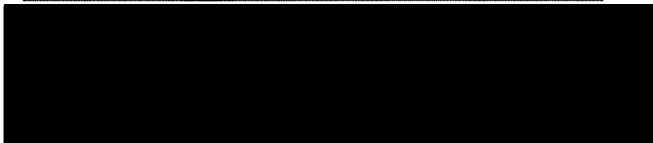
Hi Steve,

I will take up your offer for assistance from the RFS. I have pile burned large amounts of fuel but now need to do the hazard reduction as per the application.

There are fire breaks running horizontally due to cattle tracks. What can I do further to assist in the burn.

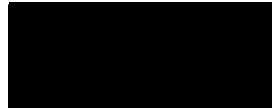
Regards,

Barry Gill



Hi Barry
HRC attached
Please let us know about assistance from RFS.
Regards

Steven Ellem
Fire Mitigation Officer
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Hawkesbury
Macquarie Rd
Wilberforce NSW 2756



www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

RFS Disclaimer:

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This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both. If you are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

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543K



RFS support

Barry G [REDACTED]

Thu, Oct 18, 2012 at 2:58 PM

To: "steven.ellem" [REDACTED]

Cc: ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Ellem,

On the 28th of September I emailed you regarding a request for RFS assistance for a hazard reduction burn on my property [REDACTED]. To date you have not replied. Additionally the burn plan you request prior to the burn, is not in my capacity to complete. This plan requires skills in reduction burning beyond the ability of the ordinary property owner. However I am sure you are aware of this. Can you please respond ASAP as the fire season is getting under way with temperatures increasing.

Kind regards,

Barry Gill



(no subject)

Barry G [REDACTED]

Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 4:31 PM

To: "[REDACTED]"

Cc: ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mr Ellem,

I tried to contacted the Colo Hieghts Fire Captain, Greg Allan last Wednesday evening the 31st of October, approxiamately 7.00pm to continue with the burn plan for my hazard reduction after recieving third party advice to do so. I only managed to get his ten second message bank. On Thursday morning the 1st of November approxiamately 10 am, I again informed Mr Allan by text to continue with the burn plan. To date I have not heard back from Mr Allan. I would now ask you to act on this burn plan requirement that you have stipulated, immediatly. You may have more than one contact number for Mr Allan other than the mobil number you have given me as the sole form of contact. Frankly, I am tired of these delays.

I now believe a letter to the Minister in charge of Emergency Services has been issued in relation to these ongoing delays.

Further, Mr Allan has also indicated to me that a Category 1 Fire Truck would not be able to access my property due to overgrown vegetation on Gills Rd which is a public road. I believe it is in your durisdiction to resolve this issue with the Hawkesbury City Council. If this is not the case, please indicate whos realm of responcebilty this issue belongs to in writing. This issue was also brought up with the Local State Member a recent meeting.

Kind regards,

Barry Gill



RFS support

Barry G [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Thu, Nov 15, 2012 at 1:44 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Barry G [redacted]
Date: Fri, Oct 26, 2012 at 1:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: RFS support
To: "steven.ellem" <[redacted]>
Cc: ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury <[redacted]>

Dear Mr Ellem,

I have been in contact with the fire captain from Colo Heights. He has informed me he is unable to prepare a burn plan or is aware of the bush fire environmental assessment code as is required by the certificate you issued.

Perhaps you can explain to the local state minister, Mr Williams and myself why after the last email sent to you regarding the issues of the burn plan, you did not ask the local fire captain if he was capable of preparing such a plan before asking me to contact this captain for his assistance. There seems to be a pattern emerging here in delaying the process and thus making it impossible to protect my family and assets against the bush fires this season. Dealing with you has been an extremely frustrating process.

I will be seeking a face to face meeting with Mr Williams and writing to the minister in charge.

I expect all further correspondence from you in writing. Email is the best medium.

Mr Williams I request a face to face meeting with you at your convenience regarding this matter. My mobile number is [redacted] Mr Williams you have been CC'd on all my correspondence to this fire mitigation officer.

Kind Regards,

Barry Gill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Barry G [redacted]
Date: Thu, Oct 18, 2012 at 2:58 PM
Subject: RFS support
To: "steven.ellem" <[redacted]>
Cc: ElectorateOffice Hawkesbury <[redacted]>

Dear Mr Ellem,

On the 28th of September I emailed you regarding a request for RFS assistance for a hazard reduction burn on my property [redacted]. To date you have not replied. Additionally the burn plan you request prior to the burn, is not in my capacity to complete. This plan requires skills in reduction burning beyond the ability of the ordinary property owner. However I am sure you are aware of this. Can you please respond ASAP as the fire season is getting under way with temperatures increasing.

Kind regards,

Barry Gill



(no subject)

Thu, Nov 15, 2012 at 1:46 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

Mr Ellem,

I have no doubt Mr Allan takes his position seriously. He was aware that I was seeking third party advice on the continuation of the burn plan. He was also aware that I would contact him as soon as the advice was received. I had waited 10 days for a response from Mr Allan. I would also suggest a simple reply was also in order to advise he had received the message. I believe this only courteous, as would any reasonable person.

I also find it difficult to comprehend that on one hand, there is risk of fire spreading outside the control lines and on the other hand the green pick would make it difficult to burn. Which is it? I believe this is further delay tactics which requires sorting out at a higher level.

I am in agreement a large scale burn would be beneficial; however this will not serve a purpose this fire season.

Further, I do have a fire pump with a line from the river for fire fighting purposes, which Mr Allan is aware of, so I find your remarks extremely condescending, but in character.

I would question your remarks in regards to the hazard reduction burn not safe to carry out currently, and will take this further.

Kind Regards,

Barry Gill

On Mon, Nov 12, 2012 at 3:02 PM, Steven Ellem [REDACTED] wrote:

Mr. Gill

Thank you for your email

In regards to the first paragraph, Greg Allan has been away on recreational leave and returned home yesterday.

I spoke with him today and he said he was catching up on emails and phone messages since his return.

Greg Allan is a volunteer and as Captain of Colo Heights Brigade takes his position seriously also deserves to be able to take annual leave.

Greg also said that he let you know that he was going to be away for a couple of weeks the last time he spoke with you.

While talking with Greg today and as he mentioned previously with you and later myself, that he had reservations in carrying out the hazard reduction burn this time of the year, due to the risk of fire spreading outside control lines and up the hill to your neighbor's property above you.

He also added that your APZ was in reasonable order, given the grazing that had been taking place and the green pick (vegetation re-growth) would make it difficult to undertake the hazard reduction burn.

Greg believes it would be advisable to wait until the end of the fire season, before carrying out the hazard reduction burn.

Greg also believes and as I have stated to you before that it would be of more benefit to you and your surrounding neighbors' for larger scale burn be carried out in the future and predominately outside your property on your neighbors' land.

I suggest that it is put up before the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) and I have already started the ball rolling on that account.

Submission would need to come from group of private land holders or from the local brigade, both of which I have facilitated by talking with Colo Heights Captain and also your immediate neighbor to the north Heath Tomkins.

Heath as you may already know has already been in touch with some of your neighbors.

If the submission is approved, I will be applying for grant money that is necessary prior to carrying out the larger hazard reduction burn. Financial assistance in regard to traffic management and air craft would be required prior to carrying out the larger hazard reduction burn.

Greg Allan is happy with the APZ as stands, he would like to see you carry out some extra precautions in relation to fitting pumps and sprinklers to assist you protect your property from possible ember attack.

Considering you are close to the Colo river with and endless supply of water for your property protection, investment into a fire pump system would seem like sound advice.

Given that the hazard reduction burn you initially propose is not safe to carry out this side of the fire danger period and Greg Allan said he is happy to draft a burn plan. If Greg needs assistance in producing a burn plan, I am happy to assist him.

In regards to the third paragraph and the road access, I have forwarded this onto Richard Vaby from council as it is outside Rural Fire Service jurisdiction.